



News Release

For immediate release

Harper Government Invests in Alternative Energy Sources for Farmers

Delhi, Ontario, June 22, 2012 – The Harper Government is investing in a pioneering project that could provide an alternative way to generate on-farm energy and reduce costs. The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, Regional Minister for Southwestern Ontario and Member of Parliament (Haldimand—Norfolk) , on behalf of Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz, today announced an investment of more than \$52,000 for the development and installation of a hydro-electric device designed to harness energy from existing dams on farms.

"Our government is committed to helping producers find ways to boost their bottom lines by identifying new energy sources," said Minister Finley. "Initiatives like these have the potential to lighten the environmental footprint of farms across Canada, while also saving farmers money."

The investment will help Norfolk County–based GreenBug Energy Inc. install and operate a test site for its first-in-Canada farm-scale Archimedes Screw Micro Hydro System in the remnants of an old mill beside an existing low-head dam. This high-tech auger-like device, mounted inside a hollow pipe, is built to rotate using the force of the water current and power a dynamo to generate approximately 60,000 kilowatt-hours of renewable energy.

Until now, low-head dams have not been used for hydro-electricity due to a lack of cost-effective technology. This run-of-the-river facility using seasonal water flows could provide farmers with the opportunity to better assess and evaluate the waterpower potential of their own dams. If expanded on a larger scale, this system could allow hundreds of farms to reduce their energy costs by taking advantage of the water flows on their properties.

"There are many existing low-head dams across Canada owned by farmers that are well suited to this new technology," stated Tony Bouk, Vice President of GreenBug Energy Inc. "We are very excited about working with the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC) and an area farmer to demonstrate our system, and about providing the same opportunity to all farmers who also own dams."

This investment is being provided through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP), a five-year (2009–14), \$163 million Government initiative that aims to help the Canadian agricultural sector adapt and remain competitive. In Ontario, CAAP is delivered by the Agricultural Adaptation Council.



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada

-2-

For more information on CAAP, please visit www.agr.gc.ca/caap.

To learn more about AAC, please visit www.adaptcouncil.org.

- 30 -

For more information, media may contact:

Media Relations

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Ottawa, Ontario

613-773-7972

1-866-345-7972

Meagan Murdoch

Director of Communications

The Office of the Honourable Gerry Ritz

613-773-1059